SPECIFICATION:

Please insert the following on top of the first page of the specification:

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING A MULTIPLAYER GAMING
ENVIRONMENT

Please replace the paragraph on page 7 on lines 8-19 with the following paragraph:

In accordance with an embodiment of the present invention, if the user's invitation is not
accepted at block 305 of Figure 3, the user may be ~~nitified~~ notified if a game is already in
progress at block 345. This determination may be done automatically in response to the user
broadcasting a gaming invitation at block 300, or it may be done in response to a specific query
initiated by the user. If it is determined at block 345 that no game is in progress (and no
invitations to game are accepted at block 305), the user may wait and broadcast another gaming
invitation at block 300. In accordance with one embodiment of the present invention,
broadcasting the gaming invitation may be done automatically on a regular basis (e.g. every
minute) at the behest of the user for a predetermined period of time or until the user deactivates
this feature. Alternatively, broadcasting the gaming invitation may be done only once in
response to a single user request.